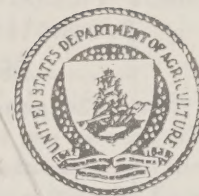
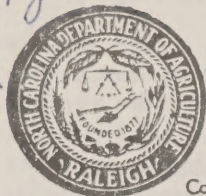


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NORTH CAROLINA



Cooperative Crop Reporting Service

No. 174

RALEIGH, N. C.

DECEMBER 23, 1954

## FLUE-CURED CROP 2ND HEAVIEST OF RECORD

Based upon post harvest reports from growers and late season sales data, production from the 1954 flue-cured tobacco crop in North Carolina is now estimated at 913 million pounds. Such a crop is nearly 10 percent larger than the 832 million pounds produced last year, 13 percent larger than the 1943-52 average, and is second in size only to 1951 when total production reached 978 million pounds.

Type 11 (Old Belt and Middle Belt) production is currently set at 308,560,000 pounds -- an average yield of 1,160 pounds per acre from the 266,000 acres harvested. Last year, production from the drought-stricken Type 11 crop was only 261,870,000 pounds.

The estimate of Type 12 (Eastern Belt)

(See "TOBACCO" Page 2)

### DROUGHT AND HURRICANE HIGHLIGHTS OF YEAR

This has been another unsatisfactory year for many crops in North Carolina. Drought conditions which have plagued the State since 1951 appear to be becoming a normal situation, and this year was the worst of all.

As though the drought were not enough, parts of the State were rather badly whipped by hurricanes Carol and Hazel. Carol struck the eastern coast at the end of August, bringing heavy rain to the extreme eastern portion of the State but did not relieve droughty conditions elsewhere. Damage to crops was not severe, although corn was considerably blown in the main path of the storm.

Hazel, which struck the State on October 15, was much more destructive. As

(See "WEATHER" Page 8)

### TAR HEEL COTTON PRODUCTION BELOW AVERAGE

The 1954 North Carolina cotton crop is now estimated at 360,000 (500-pound gross weight) bales. The 360,000 bales produced this year is 20 percent or 89,000 bales under 1953 production and 29 percent or 146,000 bales below the 10-year (1943-52) average crop.

It is estimated that 545,000 acres of cotton were harvested this year -- a reduction of 30 percent from 1953 and 23 percent under the 10-year average. North Carolina growers had 558,000 acres under cultivation July 1, compared with 782,000 acres in 1953 and the average of 718,000 acres.

The State average yield per acre is

(See "COTTON" Page 2)

### DROUGHT CUTS CORN TO LOWEST PRODUCTION SINCE 1942

The severe drought which prevailed throughout the summer reduced North Carolina's corn production to the lowest figure since 1942. The drought was, of course, more severe in some areas than others, with the tier of counties making up the Piedmont section of the State being the hardest hit. Production of all corn in 1954 totaled 50,784,000 bushels from 2,116,000 acres, with an average yield per acre of 24 bushels. This compares with 1953 production of 58,293,000 bushels from 2,159,000 acres, with an average yield per acre of 27 bushels.

The average yield per acre of corn for grain decreased from 27.5 bushels last year to 25.0 bushels this year.

(See "CORN" Page 2)



## PEANUT YIELDS HIGHEST OF RECORD Production Up 5 Percent

### Acreage Down Slightly

The 1954 peanut yield is estimated at 1650 pounds per acre. This is the highest yield of record exceeding the previous record of 1590 pounds in 1952 by 60 pounds per acre.

The total production of picked and threshed peanuts is 5 percent above last year but 5 percent below the 10-year average production. This year's crop was harvested from 173,000 acres -- 4,000 acres or 2 percent below the acreage harvested in 1953.

The crop got off to a very slow start due to damp, cool weather during the early spring and many producers had to replant a portion of their acreage due to poor stands. The crop received frequent scattered showers throughout most of the growing season and was never damaged severely by dry weather.

Weather conditions during the digging and threshing season were ideal and most of the crop has been harvested with practically no loss due to unfavorable weather. Upon picking many growers found that the crop was turning out much better than earlier expectations.

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## CORN (Continued from Page 1)

The acreage of corn harvested for grain decreased from 2,901,000 acres last year to 1,904,000 acres this year. Owing to the severe drought grain yield prospects were practically nil on thousands of farms and a considerable portion of this acreage was diverted to silage and forage. Corn utilized as silage increased from 82,000 acres last year to 106,000 acres this year. The acreage harvested for forage increased from 76,000 acres in 1953 to 106,000 acres in 1954.

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## SOYBEANS ABOVE LAST YEAR

North Carolina's 1954 soybean crop of 4,720,000 bushels is 16 percent above the 1953 crop of 4,076,000 bushels. There were 295,000 acres harvested for beans with an average yield per acre of 16 bushels. This compares with 263,000 acres harvested last year with an average yield per acre of 15.5 bushels.

## COTTON (Continued from Page 1)

estimated at 316 pounds -- 38 pounds above the average yield from last year's crop but still 24 pounds under the average.

The 1954 crop in southern Piedmont and some southeastern producing counties was reduced sharply by drought conditions. However, throughout most of the Coastal region, the crop turned out good.

It is estimated that cottonseed production from this year's crop will amount to 151,000 tons, compared with 185,000 tons last year and the average of 208,000 tons.

The United States cotton crop for 1954 is estimated at 13,569,000 bales -- 18 percent less than production in 1953 but 9 percent above the 10-year average. Growers harvested 19,187,000 acres this year -- 21 percent less than the acreage harvested a year ago and 12 percent under the 10-year average. (See the table on page 3.)

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## TOBACCO (Continued from Page 1)

production during 1954 has now been raised to 492,650,000 pounds, meaning a crop 9 percent larger than the 450,160,000 pounds harvested in 1953, 20 percent larger than the 1943-52 average and second only to the 510,860,000-pound record reached in 1951. The 334,000 acres of Type 12 harvested this year yielded an average of 1,475 pounds which is 40 pounds per acre heavier than the previous high of 1,435 established in 1951.

The 1954 poundage produced in Type 13 (Border Belt) areas is estimated at 111,800,000 pounds. Thus, this year's crop is about 7 percent smaller than the 1953 crop which totaled 120,275,000 pounds, but about 12 percent larger than the 1943-52 average. Eighty-six thousand acres were harvested this year, averaging 1,300 pounds per acre.

Expected production from the State's Type 31 (Burley) crop this year now stands at 22,610,000 pounds -- the highest of record. An average yield of 1,900 pounds per acre is estimated, also the highest of record.

For the Nation, the estimated 1,334 million pounds of flue-cured tobacco produced this year exceeds the 1953 crop by 5 percent. Production of Burley is placed at 617 million pounds compared with 564 million pounds produced last year.



# 1954 COTTON ESTIMATES WITH COMPARISONS

STATE	ACREAGE				YIELD PER ACRE			GINNINGS To Dec. 1 1954	PRODUCTION-BALES 1/			PRODUCTION-COTTONSEED		
	In Cultiva- tion July 1		Harvested		Average 1943-52	1953	1954		Average 1943-52	1953	1954	Average 1943-52	1953	1954 2/
	1953	1954	1953	1954										
	- THOUSAND ACRES-				- POUNDS LINT-				- THOUSANDS BALES-			- THOUSAND TONS-		
N. C.	782	558	775	545	340	278	316	369	506	449	360	208	185	151
S. C.	1,181	839	1,175	830	312	281	288	509	693	690	500	287	287	212
Ga.	1,382	1,041	1,375	1,025	252	262	285	611	705	752	610	285	307	251
Tenn.	958	651	950	640	357	354	408	526	544	702	545	213	279	221
Ala.	1,630	1,178	1,620	1,170	286	285	297	735	907	963	725	354	377	290
Miss.	2,554	2,002	2,490	1,950	336	410	387	1,534	1,664	2,129	1,575	672	876	641
Mo.	561	457	555	450	368	386	478	438	343	449	450	146	190	195
Ark.	2,112	1,723	2,070	1,700	332	358	381	1,302	1,343	1,548	1,355	542	620	554
La.	967	697	950	685	327	407	400	557	585	806	570	236	332	229
Okla.	1,068	975	1,020	920	152	205	154	281	385	437	295	159	175	119
Tex.	9,568	8,051	8,900	7,700	182	233	244	3,467	3,239	4,317	3,920	1,334	1,797	1,624
N. Mex.	323	210	315	202	498	497	736	267	195	327	310	79	137	126
Ariz.	693	429	690	420	555	743	968	668	387	1,070	850	161	442	351
Calif.	1,348	895	1,340	883	624	632	786	1,139	905	1,768	1,450	358	721	582
Others 3/	117	70	116	67	288	242	382	36	47	58	54	19	23	22
U. S.	25,244	19,776	24,341	19,187	272.1	324.2	339	12,439	12,448	16,465	13,569	5,054	6,748	5,568

Others:

Va.	30.0	17.9	30.0	17.0	360	291	325	9.4	18.9	18.0	11.5	-
Fla.	72.0	37.1	71.0	36.2	203	182	336	16.2	16.4	27.0	25.3	-
Ill.	2.4	3.1	2.3	2.8	238	357	445	2.5	1.8	1.7	2.6	-
Ky.	10.4	9.8	10.1	9.6	369	480	622	8.0	9.5	10.1	12.5	-
Nev.	2.3	1.8	2.3	1.8	466 4/	325	478	0	.4	1.6	1.8	-

1/ 500-pound bales ginned and to be ginned. A 500-pound bale contains about 480 net pounds of lint. Ginnings shown in running bales.

2/ Based on 1948-53 average ratio of lint to cottonseed. 3/ Sums of acreage and production for "other States" rounded to thousands for inclusion in U. S. totals. Estimates for these States, except Kansas where cotton production is insignificant, are shown separately.

4/ Short-time average





## ANNUAL CROP SUMMARY -- NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES

ESTIMATED ACREAGE, YIELD, PRODUCTION, AND VALUE OF CROPS 1954 WITH COMPARISONS

CROPS (Shown Alphabetically)		UNIT	ACREAGE HARVESTED			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION			SEASON'S AVERAGE PRICE		VALUE OF PRODUCTION		
			AVERAGE 1943-1952	1953	1954	AVERAGE 1943-1952	1953	1954	AVERAGE 1943-1952	1953	1954	1953	1954	1953	1954	
			Thousand Acres			Units			Thousands			Dollars		Thousand Dollars		
NORTH CAROLINA																
GENERAL CROPS																
BARLEY.....	BU.	38	44	57	27.2	37.5	34.0	1,035	1,650	1,938	1.24	1.14	2,046	2,209		
CORN: ALL PURPOSES.....	BU.	2,220	2,159	2,116	27.9	27.0	24.0	61,914	58,293	50,784	1.61	1.75	93,852	88,872		
FOR FORAGE.....	BU.	-	76	106	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
FOR GRAIN.....	BU.	-	2,001	1,904	-	27.5	25.0	-	55,028	47,600	1.61	1.75	88,595	83,300		
FOR SILAGE.....	TON	-	82	106	-	9.0	8.0	-	738	848	-	-	-	-		
COTTON, LINT a/.....	LB.	708	775	545	340	278	316	506	449	360	330	351	74,206	63,180		
COTTONSEED.....	TON	-	-	-	-	-	-	208	185	151	50.90	62.00	9,416	9,362		
COWPEAS: ALONE ALL PURPOSES.....	-	61	47	45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
INTERPLANTED.....	-	114	64	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
EQUIVALENT SOLID.....	-	118	79	80	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
HARVESTED FOR PEAS.....	BU.	25	17	16	4.9	5.0	4.5	118	85	72	-	-	-	-		
GRAZED OR PLOWED UNDER.....	-	80	33	46	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.90	5.00	416	360		
HAY: ALL.....	TON	1,270	1,132	1,130	1.01	.98	.96	1,287	1,111	1,081	32.70	35.00	36,330	37,835		
ALFALFA.....	TON	36	65	67	2.10	2.00	1.80	76	130	121	-	-	-	-		
CLOVER & TIMOTHY.....	TON	97	98	96	1.14	1.10	1.05	110	108	101	-	-	-	-		
COWPEA.....	TON	33	29	18	.90	.80	.75	29	23	14	-	-	-	-		
GRAIN.....	TON	90	68	90	.96	1.00	1.05	87	68	94	-	-	-	-		
LESPEDEZA.....	TON	516	467	467	1.07	.85	.85	554	397	397	-	-	-	-		
OTHER.....	TON	96	105	100	1.04	1.05	.95	100	110	95	-	-	-	-		
PEANUT.....	TON	249	164	161	.66	.85	.75	163	139	121	-	-	-	-		
SOYBEAN.....	TON	153	136	131	1.10	1.00	1.05	169	136	138	-	-	-	-		
LESPEDEZA, FOR SEED.....	LB.	156.1	156	144	201	180	130	31,580	28,080	18,720	18.00	22.00	5,054	4,118		
OATS.....	BU.	363	429	523	29.4	38.5	39.0	10,749	16,516	20,397	.83	.79	13,708	16,114		
PEANUTS: ALONE ALL PURPOSES.....	TON	266	184	180	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
PICKED & THRESHED.....	LB.	269	177	173	1,139	1,530	1,650	300,811	270,810	285,450	.120	.135	32,497	38,536		
POTATOES, IRISH, ALL.....	BU.	69	45	39	134	136	151	9,095	6,120	5,889	.92	1.45	5,630	8,539		
POTATOES, SWEETPOTATOES.....	BU.	56	46	43	106	105	93	5,983	4,830	3,999	2.51	2.65	12,123	10,597		
RYE.....	BU.	24	16	18	12.4	14.5	15.0	284	232	270	2.31	2.10	536	567		
SORGHUM: ALL PURPOSES.....	-	39	77	110	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
FOR FORAGE.....	TON	14	12	12	1.86	1.75	1.70	26	21	20	30.00	31.00	630	620		
FOR GRAIN.....	BU.	c/18	59	89	c/26.5	24	25	c/486	1,416	2,225	1.40	1.40	1,982	3,115		
FOR SILAGE.....	TON	-	4	6	-	10.0	7.0	-	40	42	-	-	-	-		
FOR SIROP.....	GAL.	7	2	3	70	87	56	505	134	168	2.55	2.70	342	454		
SOYBEANS: ALONE ALL PURPOSES.....	-	400	397	441	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
INTERPLANTED.....	-	252	138	145	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
EQUIVALENT SOLID.....	-	526	466	513	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
HARVESTED FOR BEANS.....	BU.	254	283	295	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
GRAZED OR PLOWED UNDER.....	-	118	67	87	13.8	15.5	16.0	3,559	4,076	4,720	2.57	2.70	10,475	12,744		
TOBACCO: TYPE 11.....	LB.	269.2	258	266	1,104	1,015	1,160	297,774	261,870	308,560	.446	-	116,794	-		
TYPE 12.....	LB.	337.2	331	334	1,219	1,360	1,475	411,216	450,160	492,650	.579	-	260,643	-		
TYPE 13.....	LB.	337.2	331	334	1,190	1,415	1,300	99,429	120,275	111,800	.579	-	69,639	-		
ALL FLUE-CURED.....	LB.	689.6	674	686	1,171	1,235	1,331	808,419	832,305	913,010	.490	-	447,076	-		
TYPE 31, BURLY.....	LB.	10.9	11.4	11.9	1,540	1,800	1,900	16,824	20,520	22,610	.537	-	11,019	-		
TOTAL ALL TYPES.....	LB.	700.5	685.4	697.9	1,176	1,244	1,341	825,243	852,825	935,620	.537	.540	458,095	505,192		
WHEAT.....	BU.	416	412	338	16.7	20.5	22.0	6,915	8,446	7,436	1.93	2.05	16,301	15,244		
FRUITS AND NUTS																
APPLES, COMMERCIAL CROP.....	BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,172	873	1,900	2.50	1.85	2,182	3,515		
GRAPES, ALL.....	TON	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.5	2.5	2.6	160.00	150.00	400	390		
PEACHES, ALL.....	BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,649	1,180	1,150	2.05	2.85	2,419	3,278		
PEARS, ALL.....	BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	158	134	125	1.85	1.65	248	206		
PECANS: ALL.....	LB.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,305	3,780	1,512	.201	.289	758	437		
IMPROVED.....	LB.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,072	3,175	1,300	.210	.300	667	390		
SEEDLINGS.....	LB.	-	-	-	-	-	-	233	605	212	.150	.220	91	47		
COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES																
-Actual Acres-																
FOR FRESH MARKET: c/																
BEANS, LIMA.....	BU.	1,580	1,400	1,300	62	60	70	98	84	91	3.20	3.60	269	328		
BEANS, SNAP: ALL.....	BU.	14,260	13,200	13,600	88	82	91	1,251	1,081	1,235	2.64	1.79	2,851	2,214		
LATE SPRING.....	BU.	5,850	5,800	5,500	72	70	90	424	406	495	2.90	1.75	1,177	761		
LATE SUMMER.....	BU.	7,900	6,600	6,700	101	95	100	764	627	670	2.50	1.95	1,568	1,306		
EARLY FALL.....	BU.	910	800	1,400	68	60	50	63	48	70	2.20	2.10	106	147		
BEETS.....	BU.	320	280	300	240	220	235	75	62	70	2.65	2.20	164	141		
CABBAGE: ALL.....	TON	9,550	10,300	10,900	6.3	6.2	5.3	60,000	63,400	57,800	30.35	34.95	1,924	2,020		
LATE SPRING.....	TON	2,150	2,200	2,200	5.9	6.5	7.0	12,700	14,300	15,400	29.10	30.30	338	424		
LATE SUMMER.....	TON	4,380	4,600	5,100	6.9	6.5	5.5	30,200	29,900	28,000	38.70	31.30	1,187	876		
LATE FALL.....	TON	3,020	3,500	3,600	5.6	5.5	4.0	17,100	19,200	14,400	20.80	50.00	399	720		
CANTALOUPE, 70 LB. CRATES.....	CRT.	4,900	4,500	4,700	48	45	40	214	202	188	2.45	2.15	495	404		
CORN, SWEET, 5 DOZ. EARS.....	UNIT	8,150	8,000	7,200	91	85	85	739	690	612	1.90	1.90	1,292	1,163		
CUCUMBERS.....	BU.	5,600	4,900	5,400	76	90	90	425	441	466	2.25	2.35	992	1,142		
LETTUCE, L. A. CRATES.....	CRT.	1,320	1,200	1,000	110	120	120	148	144	120	3.50	3.70	504	444		
PEPPERS, GREEN.....	CRT.	4,020	4,100	5,100	132	180	120	536	656	612	2.25	2.40	1,476	1,469		
POTATOES, IRISH, COM'L EARLY.....	TON	28,400	18,500	13,500	189	200	250	5,244	3,700	3,375	.85	1.40	3,080	4,725		
STRAWBERRIES, 24 QT. CRATE.....	CRT.	2,590	1,700	1,600	75	90	85	189	153	136	7.70	7.80	1,178	1,061		
TOMATOES.....	BU.	2,480	2,700	2,600	80	70	80	198	189	208	4.90	3.10	926	645		
WATERMELONS.....	MELON	9,890	10,000	11,000	186	220	215	1,824	2,200	2,365	.419	.380	922	899		
TOTAL FRESH MARKET.....	-	-	60,580	63,100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,815	10,869		
FOR PROCESSING:																
BEANS, SNAP.....	TON	2,300	3,000	3,000	1.4	2.0	1.8	3,000	6,000	5,400	150.20	104.30	901	563		
CUCUMBERS.....	BU.	8,200	15,300	16,000	82	81	65	676	1,239	1,040	1.35	1.35	1,673	1,404		
TOTAL VALUE OF ALL CROPS.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	795,213	839,361		
UNITED STATES																
-Thousand Acres-																
GENERAL CROPS																
BARLEY.....	BU.	10,960	8,586	12,994	25.3	28.2	28.5	274,955	242,544	370,126	1.15	1.05	278,493	389,047		
CORN, ALL.....	BU.	85,820	80,608	78,875	35.7	39.6	37.1	3,057,464	3,192,491	2,964,639	1.48	1.51	4,717,593	4,488,601		
COTTON, LINT a/.....	LB.	21,823	24,341	19,187	272.1	324.2	339.0	12,446	16,465	13,569	.322	.341	2,654,683	2,311,964		
COTTONSEED.....	TON	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,748	5,568	5,568	52.60	60.30	355,252	355,946		
COWPEAS, FOR PEAS.....	BU.	526	294	278	5.9	6.1	4.9	3,065	1,785	1,359	4.42	4.41	7,885	5,999		
HAY, ALL.....	TON	74,629	73,996	72,770	1.37	1.43	1.43	101,959	105,530	104,380	22.20	22.60	2,338,139	2,359,011		
LESPE																



## WHEAT CROP OFF 12 PERCENT

North Carolina growers harvested 7,436,000 bushels of wheat in 1954 compared with 8,446,000 bushels last year -- a decrease of 12 percent. An increase in the average yield per acre from 20.5 bushels in 1953 to 22.0 bushels in 1954 partially offset a decrease of 18 percent in the acreage harvested -- from 412,000 to 338,000 acres.

The yields from the 1954 wheat crop might have been below 1953 had it not been for favorable temperature and soil moisture conditions during much of February and most of March. Growth prior to February was rather slow since the crop was seeded late owing to dry soils during September and October. In many instances, dry soils prolonged the time required for seed germination and less than normal stands occurred rather frequently.

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## RECORD OATS CROP

The 1954 oats crop harvested by Tar Heel farmers was the largest of record. Growers harvested 20,397,000 bushels, which excelled the previous record crop of 16,516,000 bushels set last year by 23 percent. The average yield per acre at 39 bushels was also the highest of record. The previous record yield of 38.5 bushels was set in 1953.

The acreage harvested totaled 523,000 acres, an increase of 22 percent over the 429,000 acres harvested in 1953. The 1954 acreage harvested was the 4th highest of record. The record acreage harvested was set in 1889 with 542,000 acres; however, production totaled only 5,691,000 bushels with an average yield per acre of 10.5 bushels.

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## RYE PRODUCTION UP

The production of rye increased from 232,000 bushels in 1953 to 270,000 bushels in 1954. The acreage harvested increased from 16,000 acres in 1953 to 18,000 acres this year. The average yield per acre of 15 bushels equals the previous record yield set in 1952.

## RECORD BARLEY CROP

Production of barley by Tar Heel farmers increased for the 7th consecutive year. A record crop of 1,938,000 bushels was produced in 1954 -- exceeding the previous record 1953 production of 1,650,000 bushels by 17 percent. The increase in production in 1954 resulted entirely from an increase of 30 percent in acreage, since the average yield per acre in 1954 was 3.5 bushels below the record of 37.5 bushels set in 1953.

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## SORGHUM GRAIN ABOVE LAST YEAR

North Carolina farmers harvested 110,000 acres of all sorghums this year compared with 77,000 acres last year. Of the total acreage, grain sorghums accounted for 89,000 acres -- an increase of 51 percent over the 59,000 acres harvested for grain last year. Sorghum grain production totaled 2,225,000 bushels in 1954 compared with 1,416,000 bushels in 1953.

The sorghum acreage utilized as silage increased from 4,000 acres last year to 6,000 this year. There were 12,000 acres utilized as forage which is the same as a year ago. Sorghum sirup accounted for 3,000 acres this year and 2,000 acres last year.

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## HAY LOWEST SINCE 1941

Tar Heel farmers harvested 1,081,000 tons of all hay from 1,130,000 acres during 1954. This is the lowest all hay production since 1941 when 1,073,000 tons were harvested from 1,129,000 acres. The 1954 average yield per acre of .96 tons represents the lowest yield since 1944.

The 1954 hay crop of 1,081,000 tons is 3 percent less than the 1953 crop of 1,111,000 tons from 1,132,000 acres and is 16 percent less than the 1943-52 average production of 1,287,000 tons.

Production in 1954 was less than 1953 for all hay crops except lespedeza, soybean and grain hay. Production of lespedeza hay was unchanged from a year earlier, while soybean hay increased only 2,000 tons and grain hay increased 26,000 tons. Grain hay crops were harvested before the start of the 1954 drought and yields were not reduced as was the case with most other hay crops.



## PECAN CROP SMALLEST SINCE 1946

North Carolina's 1954 pecan crop of 1,512,000 pounds is the smallest crop since 1946 when 1,250,000 pounds were produced. Percentagewise, the 1954 crop is only 40 percent of the 1953 crop. Production from improved varieties accounted for 86 percent of the total this year compared with 84 percent last year.

Extended dry weather and damages from Hurricane "Hazel" were chiefly responsible for the short 1954 crop.

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## IRISH POTATO CROP SMALLER

The 1954 Tar Heel Irish potato crop totaled 5,889,000 bushels -- 4 percent below last year and 35 percent below the 10-year (1943-52) average crop of 9,095,000 bushels.

This smaller production is due entirely to a decrease in the acreage harvested this year. There were 39,000 acres harvested in 1954 compared to 45,000 for the previous year and a 10-year average crop of 69,000 acres.

Yields were very good this year as they averaged 151 bushels per acre -- 15 bushels above the 1953 yield and 17 bushels above average. Weather conditions were generally good throughout the early growing season and most producers made excellent yields of good quality potatoes. The late crop was damaged some by dry weather and failed to yield as well as usual.

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## DROUGHT REDUCES YIELD OF SWEETPOTATOES

The severe drought was primarily responsible for the decrease in the average yield per acre of sweetpotatoes from 105 bushels in 1953 to 93 bushels in 1954. The 1953 average yield per acre was the lowest since 1941, although the average yield per acre in 1951 was down to 94 bushels.

Sweetpotato production in the State during 1954 totaled 3,999,000 bushels. This is 831,000 bushels or 17 percent less than the 1953 crop of 4,830,000 bushels.

## COMMERCIAL VEGETABLE PRODUCTION AND VALUE DOWN

Production of commercial vegetables (excluding strawberries and Irish potatoes) in North Carolina totaled 161,200 tons in 1954 -- a decrease of 2 percent from the 164,200 tons produced in 1953. The decrease in production was due to lower yields caused by the hot dry weather that occurred during the growing season. The production of cabbage, cantaloups, sweet corn, lettuce and green peppers were all below a year earlier. There were 63,100 acres of commercial vegetables harvested in 1954 compared to 60,580 a year earlier.

The value of North Carolina's 1954 commercial vegetables for fresh market (excluding strawberries and Irish potatoes) totaled 10,869,000 -- 8 percent less than the 1953 value of 11,815,000. The value of snap beans, beets, cantaloups, sweet corn, lettuce, green peppers, tomatoes and watermelons were all lower in 1954 than a year earlier. (See table, pages 4 & 5).

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## RECORD EGG PRODUCTION

Laying flocks in the Tar Heel State produced an estimated 102 million eggs during November -- the highest production of record for that month, being 12 percent above the previous record of 91 million in 1953.

There were an estimated 8,944,000 layers on hand during November compared to 8,972,000 a year earlier. The rate of lay during November 1954 of 1,140 eggs per 100 layers was 12 percent above the rate for November 1953 of 1,014 eggs per 100 layers.

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## RECORD MILK PRODUCTION

Estimated November milk production in N. C. totaled 141 million pounds -- a record high for the month. The November flow showed a seasonal decline of 11 million pounds from the October output but was 8 million pounds higher than production during November 1953 and 27 million pounds above the 1943-52 average for the month.

U. S. milk production during November, estimated at 8.4 pounds, was only a little above last year's previous record for the month.

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## WEATHER (Continued from Page 1)

far as crop production is concerned, losses from Hazel were not excessive. Corn in the fields was badly blown but most of it appears to have been picked up. Harvest and curing of tobacco was completed and there was no significant loss of that crop. Peanut stacks were blown down but most of the crop was salvaged. The greatest damage from an agricultural standpoint was the destruction of thousands of tobacco barns.

A look at the weather statistics for 1954 discloses the fact that average rainfall for the State during January of this year was about 2.5 inches above normal. In March there was a plus of 0.8 inch, while the average for May was one-tenth of an inch above normal. In all other months up through September, precipitation fell below normal by amounts ranging from 0.7 inch in April to 2.7 inches in June.

Average temperatures were above normal in all months except March and May. May was unusually cool, averaging about 4 degrees below normal. June and July were about one degree above normal, while August and September were each 2 degrees above.

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## RECORD HATCHINGS IN NOVEMBER

North Carolina's commercial hatcheries produced an estimated 5,357,000 chicks during November. The November output was 1 percent above the 5,320,000 chicks produced during the same month a year earlier and is the highest November production of record.

Total production in the Tar Heel State during the first 11 months of 1954 is estimated at 73,697,000 chicks. This represents an increase of about 18 percent over production during the comparable period in 1953.

Chick production for the Nation was down slightly during November as the 86,644,000 chicks produced was 19 percent below the number produced during November 1953. Hatcheries are continuing to reduce settings and hatchings as a result of relatively low broiler and egg prices. The number of eggs in incubators on December 1 was 21 percent less than a year earlier indicating a much smaller hatch during December than a year ago.